

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Business Meeting  
and Closed Executive Session

March 3, 2015

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Business Meeting and Closed Executive Session at 6:06 pm on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Heather Bennett, Vice President Tiffany Sandberg, J. Michael Clára (arriving at 6:30 p.m.), Rosemary Emery, Melissa Ford, Katherine Kennedy, Kristi Swett, and Josh Whisenant, Student Member.

Also Present: Superintendent McKell Withers; Janet Roberts, Business Administrator; Patrick Garcia, Associate Superintendent School Support; Kristina Kindl, Director of Policy and Legal Services; Kenneth Grover, Director Career & Technology Education and High School Support; Brian Conley, Lead Director, School Leadership Support; Michael Williams, Director of Development and External Relations; Paul Sagers, Principal East High School; Larry Madden, Principal Salt Lake Center for Science Education; Rachel Nance, Principal Northwest Middle School; Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; Florence Vincent, board legal counsel from Van Cott, Bagley, Cornwall & McCarthy; Lorena Riffo-Jenson, Bob Fuehr, and Ken Jensen, VOX Creative; Jason Olsen, Public Information Officer; Cristian Cortes, 2015-2016 Student Board Member; Lisa Alleman, Superintendent's Office; and others in the audience.

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the Board Business Meeting of March 3, 2015 seven motions were made. Items are reported as listed in the agenda and not necessarily in the order they were considered.

The meeting was called to order by President Bennett, who presided.

1. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Litigation, Negotiations, and/or Property

At 6:06 p.m. a motion was made, after which members excused the audience and remained in the board room:

<sup>A</sup>(1) That the board meet in Closed Executive Session to consider litigation, negotiations, and/or property. Approval was given to the motion on a vote of 6 to 0, with Mr. Clára absent at the time of the vote.

\*\*(Swett and Emery)

Board Business Meeting

March 3, 2015

Present for Closed Session for litigation, negotiations, and/or property were Heather Bennett, Tiffany Sandberg, Rosemary Emery, Melissa Ford, Katherine Kennedy, Kristi Swett, McKell Withers, Janet Roberts, Patrick Garcia, Kristina Kindl, and Florence Vincent, board legal counsel from Van Cott, Bagley, Cornwall & McCarthy.

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session for litigation, negotiations, and/or property at 6:15 p.m. and returned to the Board Business Meeting at 6:33 p.m.

B. Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual

VOTE RECORD	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
BENNETT	X		
CLÁRA	2,3,5,6		1
EMERY	X		
FORD	X		
KENNEDY	X		
SANDBERG	X		
SWETT	X		
A Absent	Ab Abstention	F Failed	
N "No" Vote	NA No Action	T Tabled	
W Withdrawn	*Unanimous Approval		
**Members Making Motion			

There was no Closed Executive Session for Character, Professional Competence, or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual.

2. BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

- President Bennett welcomed everyone in the audience. She recognized the presence of Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; and Boy Scout Troops 6 and 19 from the Trolley Square area who were observing to work on a merit badge.
- Cristian Cortes, 2015-2016 Student Board Member, led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- Mr. Clára asked for a Point of Order concerning the relocation of the Police Officer to the front of the room. He distributed a letter addressing his concerns. President Bennett denied the Point of Order saying it was not on the agenda and it was not a Point of Order because it did not correct an error in Parliamentary Procedures or a breach in the rules. President Bennett called for a recess at 6:37 p.m. Board members returned to the Board Business Meeting at 6:43 p.m. and President Bennett said the board would proceed with the agenda. A copy of Mr. Clára's letter has been added to the record of the meeting.
- President Bennett recognized two schools as the recipients of the Utah Science Teachers Association Science Department of the Year Awards. Salt Lake Center for Science Education (SLCSE) received the award for Secondary Schools and Northwest Middle School received the award for Middle Schools. The award is given to science departments that are collaborative, creative, and willing to go above and beyond to support their students' successes. Rachel Nance, Principal, Northwest; Jessica Dwyer, Science Coach; and Dani Bain-Smith, Roger Hagland, and Rob Dahl, Science Teachers, were present to accept the recognition for Northwest Middle School. Larry Madden, Principal, SLCSE; and Dr. Niki Hack, Science Teacher, were present to accept the recognition for SLCSE.

- Superintendent Withers recognized Cristian Cortes who has been nominated to serve at the 2015-2016 non-voting Student Board Member. Cristian introduced his family and expressed his excitement to represent the students of the district in this capacity. Paul Sagers, Principal, East High School, was present to show his support.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

\*(3) A motion was made to approve the five items, including six policies, that were included in the Consent Agenda. These items are listed below.

\*\* (Swett and Kennedy)

Superintendent Withers and Janet Roberts, Business Administrator, answered questions from the board about the purchasing report and school's financial reports. Vice President Sandberg clarified policy P-5 is new and required by State law.

1. The Purchasing/Accounting Report, included a breakdown of items costing over and under \$50,000, increases to existing purchase orders, a payment voucher report that includes travel and professional expenditures, a Budget Report for January 2015, and the School's Financial Reports for elementary, middle, and high schools and Student Body Activities for East, Highland, and West High Schools for the three months ended December 31, 2014.
2. The Human Resources Department Report, included new contract employment for one employee, changes for two, and releases for three.
3. Minutes of the Board Business Meeting held February 3, 2015.
4. Minutes of the Board Study Session held February 17, 2015.
5. Board Policies
  - a. G-2, Emergency Preparedness and Response
  - b. G-7, School Traffic Safety
  - c. I-2, Graduation Requirements
  - d. P-5, Employment of Substitute Teachers
  - e. P-10, Personnel Evaluations
  - f. S-5, Dress and Grooming

B. REQUESTS TO SPEAK

There were no requests to speak.

C. REPORTS

1. Highlights from School Improvement Plans:

Salt Lake Center for Science Education (SLCSE). Larry Madden, Principal SLCSE, introduced Dr. Hack, Science Teacher; Lisa Purcell, Social Studies Teacher; and freshman Kayla Valdez.

Mr. Madden expressed excitement with the school's recent Poetry Out Loud competition. He explained every student memorized a poem to recite. Kayla Valdez was selected as the SLCSE Poet Laureate for 2015, and took second place in the regional competition. She recited a poem for the board.

Mr. Madden said he is proud of the mission statement of SLCSE and said it does a good job of expressing the focus of the school, which goes beyond getting good test scores. He said teachers are doing a great job, have high expectations of students, and provide all the tools necessary for them to succeed. Despite a 51% economic disadvantage in their student population, SLCSE is at the top or near the top of the district in all areas except middle school math.

Dr. Hack said at SLCSE there was a desire to know how students are doing beyond standardized test scores. She explained this year SLCSE used a 20-question online student poll called 'Gallup' to measure hope, engagement, and well-being of students. The questions address topics such as future expectations about work and college, feelings of safety and support, and skills in problem solving and accessing resources. A handout was provided showing the results of the 350 students who responded to the survey; 85% reported feeling hopeful, 76% felt engaged, and 71% felt an overall sense of well-being. These results are exciting because the comparison data from the online Gallup poll showed averages to be about 10%–15% lower. One area that showed a need for improvement was the students' response to a question asking if they had received recognition for doing good work in the past 7 days. Only 52% said they had. She said teachers try to avoid a lot of empty praise, and recognize that students may not be interpreting the recognitions they receive as praise. This has provided them with feedback they can use to come up with an intervention strategy to improve feelings in this area. The data is still being manipulated to see where improvements can be made in other areas. At the request of a board member, Dr. Hack said she would e-mail more information about the survey to Superintendent Withers. A copy of the handout has been added to the official minutes.

Mr. Madden said another area of focus is to make 12<sup>th</sup> grade more robust by helping students who have met the credit requirements for graduation fill holes in their schedules with internships, electives, and opportunities that will improve College and Career Readiness. They want students to understand that exceeding the minimum requirements will help them be more prepared and give them advantages in the future.

Mr. Madden and his team answered questions from the board and thanked the board for the support they receive.

2. Budget Development: Janet Roberts presented an overview of the budget, focusing on the General Fund which finances K-12 regular classroom activities. The General Fund is \$180 million. She said 88% of it is spent on salaries and benefits, and only 1% is spent on purchased services. She said 67% of the General Fund is spent on direct instruction.

Ms. Roberts said some decisions being made at the Legislature could affect the budget, but the district will not know the total impact until the Legislative Session concludes next Thursday. She highlighted which bills the district is watching, and itemized the positive and negative impacts.

Ms. Roberts said one of the most important positive impacts is the Governor's budget, and she asked Superintendent Withers to share updates. Superintendent Withers said the Governor has proposed a 6.25% increase to the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU). In addition, the Governor wants to see additional investments made in professional development and technology, with those funds being made as flexible as possible in order to encourage local control. Revenue projections have recently been updated and show this increase can easily be supported.

Ms. Roberts explained the Governor's proposed increase is important because the 2007-2008 fiscal year was the last year before education budget cuts began. She said using those numbers as a baseline, she has been able to explain to the Legislature that the district school budgets have not recovered from previous budget cuts, and is still lower than it was in FY08. Legislators were surprised because they felt like they had been allocating funds to education, but hadn't realized it has not been enough to catch up.

Ms. Roberts reviewed school allocations provided to board members in their Budget Development Binders. She explained the projections, allocations and revisions that occur once all the enrollment data has been received in October. She said projection data is important for schools to be able to plan for the upcoming year. It is important for the numbers to be as accurate as possible, but they are adjusted once school starts and students can be counted

Superintendent Withers said he feels the district has been very accurate with the enrollment projections, which has allowed schools to plan for teacher staffing earlier instead of having to hire more teachers after school starts.

Ms. Roberts answered questions from board members and referenced a timeline for finalizing the fiscal year 2016 budget, emphasizing there will still be many opportunities to talk about the budget. She said board members could call her anytime with additional questions.

D. DISCUSSION AGENDA

1. 2016-2021 Student Achievement Plan (SAP). Patrick Garcia, Associate Superintendent School Support, and Bob Fuehr, Lorena Rizzo-Jenson, and Ken Jensen, Vox Creative, reported on progress being made by the owners of the Essentials. Committees are being formed, they are creating focus groups, and are reaching out to stakeholders. Once the committees have been determined, they will focus on identifying goals. Dr. Garcia reported the names of board members who requested to be on a specific committee have been given to the Essential owners and Board Members should expect to be contacted.

The Vox Creative team led the board through an activity to create a mission and vision statement. They reminded them that the vision is who the district is, and the mission is what the district does. They asked board members to reference the handouts provided at the February 3, 2015 Board Business Meeting and passed out extra copies as needed. Copies of the handouts have been added to the official minutes.

Board members discussed the current vision and mission statements, reviewed proposed revisions to each, and made additional suggestions for changes. Comments made by board members about what is important included a focus on improving the district, a focus on

students, exercising creativity in solving problems, including the community, and the importance of current, as well as future, success.

The working draft of the Vision Statement was updated to say:

*"Salt Lake City School District is dedicated to excellence and equity in education."*

The working draft of the Mission Statement was updated to say:

*"Working together with our community, Salt Lake City School District (we) provides the highest quality education and prepares all students to succeed in their college, career, and future."*

Mr. Garcia provided a handout titled 'Student Achievement Plan Development Process' which highlights key steps in the process and clarifies which stages include board involvement. The handout also includes a timeline of expected milestone completion dates. A copy of the handout has been added to the official minutes.

Board members expressed the desire to change the way the Essentials are reported to the board once this process is complete. Instead of updates on what they have been doing, they would like to see more focus on accountability with measurable goals and outcomes and said Assessment and Evaluation should be a cornerstone of every Essential.

#### E. ACTION AGENDA

##### 1. 2015-2016 Student Fee Schedule.

<sup>NA</sup>(4) A motion was made to approve the updated 2015-2016 Student Fee Schedule. No action was taken due to approval of substitute motion #5.

<sup>\*\*</sup>(Swett and Sandberg)

Kenneth Grover, Director Career & Technology Education and High School Support discussed Exhibit E1, the Student Fee Schedule.

President Bennett asked for the fee schedule to be discussed prior to voting on the motion to ensure that all the requested changes from the February 3, 2015 Board Business Meeting had been included. She invited Paul Sagers, Principal, East High School, to join Mr. Grover in answering questions.

Board members clarified details about what is included in waivable vs. non-waivable fees and what students who do not pay the non-waivable fees might have to do without. Dr. Sagers said at East High, they never offer an item, even an optional one, to the students if there is not a way for every student to obtain it. As long as the students put forth a full effort to participate in fundraisers, the school will find a way to pay for any shortcomings.

The text in the 'UHSSA Activities' section of the fee schedule was reviewed. There was still confusion about the column titled 'Req/Opt Activity' because everything is listed as optional, but required fees are calculated into the 'Additional Activity Cost' Column that it references. Board members expressed the importance for additional clarity that the fees listed are the true maximums and the amounts contain both waivable and non-waivable fees.

President Bennett requested another revision to the schedule be provided at the Board Study Session scheduled for March 17, 2015, instead of acting on it tonight. She requested board members who have additional questions talk to Mr. Grover prior to that meeting.

Mr. Sagers expressed the importance of having the fee schedule finalized soon because it needs to be included in the registration information for next year. He suggested since the concerns about the schedule were about the wording on the form, and not the fees themselves, the board approve the dollar amounts while they continue to work on the clarifying language so schools know what to plan for, and can start programing fees into online registration forms.

\*(5) A Substitute Motion was made to approve only the fee amounts listed on the fee schedule as work continues on clarifying language with the understanding that both waivable and non-waivable fees are included in the totals.

\*\*(Swett and Sandberg)

<sup>w</sup>(6) An Second Substitute Motion was made to include 'activities' in the itemized list next to 'Uniforms or Other Personal Expenses' under the 'High School Uniforms' heading. No action was taken as the motion was withdrawn by the maker.

\*\*(Ford)

After some discussion that many sports do not charge a uniform fee, and the groups that are listed under the "High School Uniforms List" have different maximums, Ms. Ford retracted the second substitute motion.

2. Appointment of Cristian Cortes, non-voting Student Board Member.

At the point Cristian was introduced to the board, the following motion was made:

\*(2) That Cristian Cortes be appointed as the non-voting Student Board Member for the 2015-2016 school year.

\*\*(Sandberg and Kennedy)

3. Any item transferred from Consent Agenda.

There were no items transferred from the Consent Agenda.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Miscellaneous Updates:

Priority Legislation. Superintendent Withers provided a handout of SB284, which is a new piece of legislation that would result in an increase in property taxes without requiring a Truth in Taxation hearing. Local taxes would be taken by the State to fund charter schools for which the district has no oversight. He thinks the bill will probably clear the Senate, and efforts should be made to try to stop it in the House. A copy of the handout has been added to the official minutes.

Superintendent Withers provided a handout called '2015 Legislature Summary of Bills

USBA/USSA/UASBO Positions' which explains their current positions. Superintendent Withers answered questions from the board. A copy of the handout has been added to the official minutes.

ESEA Issues. Superintendent Withers said the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) board will be requesting a continuation of the flexibility waiver, which he hopes will happen. He said reauthorization at the Federal level of ESEA includes two separate bills, but neither of them have more than a 20% hope of passing in the near future. He said this makes it critical the waiver continue rather than go back to No Child Left Behind.

Superintendent Withers shared information about a rally to stand up for public education scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2015, at 5:30 pm at the Capitol. The goal is to voice support for the Governor's priorities to include as many flexible resources as possible to promote local control. Superintendent Withers will forward information to the board. Superintendent Withers answered questions from the board about additional legislation.

2. Other Superintendent Reports

There were no additional reports

G. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Ms. Sandberg, seconded by Ms. Swett, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

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Janet M. Roberts  
Business Administrator

lba



**Salt Lake City School District**

**OFFICIAL EXHIBITS OF BOARD MEETING**

Official exhibits provided to the board and made available to the public as part of the meeting agenda can be found [here](#).

**ADDITION TO THE MINUTES**

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District acts by vote of a majority of the board members in an open and public meeting. Statements by individual board members, in or out of board meetings, written, oral or in social media, do not necessarily represent the views of the majority of the board or any other board member. Nevertheless, out of respect to the elected office that each board member holds and consistent with state law and board policy, the board allows its members to attach to board meeting minutes any other information that any member requests. When the board votes to approve minutes, that vote signifies that the minutes are a correct record of what occurred and what was asked to be included in the minutes. It does not signify any individual board member's agreement with the substance of the content.

The following information was distributed in the public meeting of the board, and has been included in the minutes at the request of the board member(s):

SLCSE "Gallup Poll" Results – distributed as part of a presentation	<a href="#">Agenda Item C1</a>
Salt Lake City School District Mission Statement-Working Draft - distributed as part of a presentation	<a href="#">Agenda Item D1</a>
Salt Lake City School District Vision Statement-Working Draft – distributed as part of a presentation	<a href="#">Agenda Item D1</a>
Student Achievement Plan Development Process – distributed as part of a presentation	<a href="#">Agenda Item D1</a>
Senate Bill 284 – Charter School Funding Revisions – distributed as part of a presentation	<a href="#">Agenda Item F1</a>
2015 Legislature Summary of Bills USBA/USSA/UASBO Positions – distributed as part of a presentation	<a href="#">Agenda Item F1</a>

The following information was distributed in the public meeting of the board, and will be included in the record of the meeting:

Letter with attachments – distributed by Mr. Clára	<a href="#">Public Record Item</a>
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